



2/15/05

FINAL PASSAGE

SB 102 (Cropsey)

SB 102 would rename the Ionia Maximum Correctional Facility, as the Jack Welborn Correctional Facility. Jack Welborn is well known in Michigan by those who work in, or are familiar with, the State's correctional system. From 1986 to 1994, when he retired from the Michigan Senate, Welborn was the chairperson of various Senate committees that considered legislation regarding the Department of Corrections, and corrections issues in general.

- SB 102 was passed for the day.

SB 170 (Patterson)

SB 170 would change current law to include an individual with whom a victim currently has or previously had a "dating relationship" in provisions relating to arrests in domestic violence situations. The changes made in this bill are technical in nature and make improvements to current relevant statutes.

- SB 170 passed [RC 8: 37 yes, 0 no].

THIRD READING

SB 146 (BERNERO)

SB 146 would amend the Public Health Code to delete a provision authorizing a disciplinary subcommittee to impose sanctions on a pharmacist for employing the mail to sell, distribute, or deliver a drug that requires a prescription when the prescription for the drug is received by mail. Since the beginning of fiscal year 2004-05, mail-order pharmacies have been able to contract with the State to provide prescription drugs for the Medicaid program. Reportedly, consumers often can receive medication from mail-order pharmacies at a significant discount--sometimes, more than 50%--off the price at a traditional retail pharmacy. The Public Health Code, however, authorizes administrative sanctions against a pharmacist who uses the mail to fill prescriptions that have been received by mail.

Support: UAW, MI Manufacturers Assn., GM, Ford, Chrysler, Dykema Gossett, State Employees Retirees Assn., MAHP, MMF, MHPA, BCBSM, MEA, MI Health Purchasers Coalition, MI Building and Construction Trades, AARP, DCH, MMA, Caremart, Medco, St. John's Health, Visteon – SB 146 levels the playing field, is more convenient for Michigan citizens, keeps healthcare money in Michigan, can increase Mi business and tax

revenue, and could increase competition and lower costs

Oppose: Pharmacists Assn. – without a changes to allow pharmacies to use centralized filling and greater economies of scale, simply taking the penalties off using mail-order could actually hurt business.

- SB 146 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

Agricultural Commission

- The Senate confirmed the appointment of Dale Norton to the Agricultural Commission [RC 7: 37 yes, 0 no].